

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, EGEN, LY
SUBJECT: QADHAFI LECTURES ON SYRIA, REAL ESTATE AND MILITARY
MANPOWER

REF: TRIPOLI 0425 (NOTAL)

1. QADHAFI EMERGED FROM ALMOST TWO WEEKS OF DESERT SECLUSION
TO MAKE LONG AND DISJOINTED MARCH 19 TV LECTURE TO THE
MASSES WHICH APPARENTLY PROVED TOO MUCH FOR THE NATIONAL
TRANSLATION SERVICE. ONLY BITS AND PIECES OF IT HAVE APPEARED
IN ENGLISH SUMMARY. SPEECH WAS MADE ON EVE OF NEW ROUND OF
LOCAL PEOPLES' CONGRESSES, "DECISIONS" OF WHICH WILL NO
DOUBT BE ENDORSED AT ANOTHER NATIONAL SESSION. QADHAFI
ADDRESSED THREE MAJOR POINTS: TO AID OR NOT TO AID SYRIA
(REFTEL), REAL ESTATE AND MILITARY FORCES.

2. LOCAL ARABIC PRESS VERSIONS OF SPEECH (ALSO DISJOINTED
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AND REPETITIVE) REPORT QADHAFI ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION
TO BUILD A MILITARY FORCE OF ONE MILLION PEOPLE.
IN ENGLISH PRINTED EXCERPTS, HOWEVER, QADHAFI IS QUOTED
AS INTENDING TO ARM THE WHOLE PEOPLE EVENTUALLY.
INCLUDING WOMEN AND EXCLUDING SMALL CHILDREN AND OLD
PEOPLE, THE NEW LIBYAN MILITARY COULD PRESUMABLY AMOUNT
TO AROUND A MILLION. WHEN EVERYONE HAS BEEN ARMED AND

TRAINED, THERE WILL NO LONGER BE A NEED FOR "SPECIFIC SOLDIERS" AND LIBYA CAN BE RID OF THE TEMPORARY AND UNSATISFACTORY EXPEDIENT OF CONSCRIPTION, WHICH ACCORDING TO QADHAFI IS FIT ONLY FOR SLAVES AND IS THE SYSTEM USED BY THE COLONIALISTS. NEVERTHELESS, QADHAFI AFFIRMED THAT DUE TO LACK OF VOLUNTEERS FOR ARMED FORCES CONSCRIPTION WOULD BE NECESSARY UNTIL MILITARY BUILD-UP SUFFICIENT FOR LIBYA'S SAFETY WAS COMPLETE. IN THIS CONNECTION QADHAFI NOTED EGYPTIAN FORCES STILL MASSED ON BORDER.

3. ON THE TOPIC OF REAL ESTATE, QADHAFI AGAIN SAID THAT LANDLORDISM MUST GO. "A HOUSE BELONGS TO ITS LESSEE" AND THERE MUST BE NO LANDLORDS TO EXPLOIT TENANTS, AN EXPLOITATION WHICH CAN BE ACCEPTED ONLY BY SLAVES. SOME WHO HEARD QADHAFI UNDERSTOOD HIM TO HAVE BROACHED THE IDEA THAT CURRENT TENANTS WOULD PAY RENT TO THE LANDLORD OR TO THE STATE UNTIL THE ORIGINAL COST OF A RENT HOUSE HAD BEEN PAID BACK, AT WHICH POINT THE TENANT WOULD GET TITLE. THE PRINTED EXCERPTS DO NOT MENTION THIS FORMULA, BUT IT HAS CIRCULATED FOR SOME TIME IN THE TRIPOLI RUMOR MILL AND WILL APPARENTLY BE ONE OF THE ALTERNATIVES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE MASSES IN THEIR CURRENT MEETINGS.

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4. ON OTHER ECONOMIC MATTERS, QADHAFI AGAIN DECLARED THAT WEALTH MUST BE DIRECTLY IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE AND NOT BELONG TO THE GOVERNMENT AS WITH THE "SINGLE ECONOMIC SECTOR COUNTRIES" OR TO THE CAPITALISTS AND EXPLOITATIONISTS IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES. STRIKING ANOTHER FAVORITE NOTE, QADHAFI AGAIN URGED THE PEOPLE TO GO INTO THE PRODUCTIVE SECTORS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND "OTHER SECTORS OF BENEFIT."

5. COMMENT: QADHAFI, WHO HAD DISAPPEARED FROM PUBLIC VIEW FOR SEVERAL WEEKS FOLLOWING HELICOPTER CRASH, WAS PICTURED IN THE WEEKEND PRESS PORING OVER SKETCHES AT THE SITE OF SOME PROJECT. HE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IN POOR SHAPE FOR HIS SPEECH AND TO HAVE GIVEN ONE OF HIS SORRIER PERFORMANCES. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, FAIL TO PRODUCE A NEW BIZARRE IDEA FOR THE OCCASION, I.E., REPLACING THE ARMY WITH A MILITIA OF THE WHOLE. HIS COMMENTS ON NEED FOR CONSCRIPTION PUT FORWARD AS IF IT WERE NEW POLICY, CAN ONLY EVOKE SCORN SINCE ALL SECTORS OF LIBYAN SOCIETY FULLY AWARE THAT COMPULSORY SERVICE OFTEN IMPLEMENTED WITH PRESS-GANG TACTICS HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FOR MANY

MONTHS. REMARKS ON HOUSING WILL CERTAINLY PLEASE
POORER ELEMENTS BUT WILL FURTHER EMBITTER MIDDLE
CLASSES. PROBLEM FOR QADHAFI IS THAT MIDDLE CLASS
NOW INCLUDES MOST OF MILITARY OFFICERS AND THUS
HE MAY BE FANNING DISAFFECTION IN THIS IMPORTANT
BULWARK OF HIS REGIME.
CARLE

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